

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 9 and 12, and cancel Claims 6 and 11 as shown in the following listing.

1 1. (Currently Amended). A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end to a second tube end
2 in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter
3 within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

4 a slightly resilient ~~clamping structure~~ collar having a plurality of inwardly projecting
5 prominences;

6 said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes therethrough;

7 said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of said prominences therethrough to
8 contact an outer surface of said second tube end;

9 wherein said collar has an axially variable resiliency.

1 2. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein a first one of said prominences is shaped to have a
2 tapered inner surface.

1 3. (Currently Amended). A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end to a second tube end
2 in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter
3 within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

4 a resilient clamping structure having a plurality of inwardly projecting prominences;

5 said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes therethrough;

6 said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of said prominences therethrough to

7 contact an outer surface of said second tube end;

8 wherein a first one of said prominences is shaped to have a tapered inner surface; and

9 ~~The fitting of Claim 2,~~ wherein said tapered inner surface has an upper portion and an
10 adjacent lower portion wherein said upper portion is more outwardly located than said lower portion.

1 4. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein said clamping structure further comprises a
2 sleeve-shaped body.

1 5. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein said prominences are evenly spaced apart.

1 6. (Canceled).

1 7. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein there are at least six prominences.

1 8. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein said clamping structure is axially symmetric.

1 9. (Currently Amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein said clamping structure is formed
2 from an integrated collar made from a resilient material.

1 10. (Original). The fitting of Claim 1, wherein said prominences are biased radially inwardly.

1 11. (Canceled).

1 12. (Currently Amended). An auto-adapting fitting for releasably connecting in a substantially
2 coaxial, end-to-end orientation, a first tube end to a second tube end where said second tube end has
3 an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

4 ~~a fitting for a paintball gun feed port comprises:~~

5 a tubular feed port having a first axial opening;

6 said port being shaped to have a plurality of apertures extending radially through said
7 side wall proximate to said opening; and

8 [[an]] a slightly resilient annular retaining ring circumferentially mounted to said
9 outer wall, said ring having a plurality of friction ~~prominence~~ prominences penetrating through said
10 aperture into said port;

11 wherein each of said prominences comprises an axially medial hump.